

PEQUOT TRAILS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY IN THE SPRING, SUMMER, FALL AND WINTER BY THE PEQUOT-SEPOS WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, INC., MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

Vol. VI

Winter of 1955

Number four

Sanctuary Projects

This winter finds your curator busy on a number of long pending projects. Perhaps the most urgent, and yet the most formidable of these projects, is the improvement of our entrance and parking area. Several major changes are needed here both from the standpoint of safety and that of creating a good first impression of the Sanctuary by our visitors.

Plans call for eliminating the stone wall between the two entrances. Most of these stones can be used in a smaller and lower triangle midway between the entrances. A large rustic sign with the Sanctuary's name and other pertinent information will be erected on this triangle. An added bit of landscaping about the base of it should make a most attractive entrance and an interesting advertisement to the passerby.

As time permits, a rustic railing and additional border landscaping will be continued around the parking lot.

In addition to the entrance sign, numerous other signs of a rustic nature are being planned and constructed for use about the Sanctuary. These will include a rather large sign somewhere on the approach to the trails that will welcome visitors and at the same time remind them of certain Sanctuary regulations. Many directional signs are needed for the various trails, the forestry area, the trailside museum, the picnic area, etc. Many new signs and labels are needed for the nature trail in order to make it a more complete ecological story of our area.

It is felt that by the use of attractive rustic signs, and by eliminating the flat painted type, we can give the Sanctuary more of a "natural" atmosphere such as we find in many of our state and national parks.

The task of widening and clearing trails is one that is never quite complete. However, parts of our trails do need major improvements in this respect before the coming of lush spring foliage. Then, too, our trailside museum is a constant project that always needs improving.

The hurricanes of the past season left a number of trees down throughout the Sanctuary. These consist of oak, birch, maple, and similar hardwoods that would make excellent fire-place logs. This is another reason why

Next Screen Tour Monday, Jan. 17

Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr. Elected President

Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr., of Westerly, R. I., was elected president of the Sanctuary at a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Cottrell's election fills the vacancy created when our former president, Mrs. Richard P. Grover of Mystic, retired at the end of our regular fiscal year, June 30, 1954. During this interim the Sanctuary was under the direction of our vice president, Dr. H. G. Schuster, of Mystic.

In order that all our members may be familiar with the current officers and trustees of the Sanctuary, the following list is published for your information.

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Arthur M. Cottrell, Jr.

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the Sanctuary could use a chain saw to advantage. With a chain saw these trees could be cut up and removed in a reasonable length of time. The task would be too long and time consuming with hand saws.

Tom and Arlene Hadley To Present "Into The North Woods"

Tom and Arlene Hadley of Holly, Michigan, will present the next Audubon Screen Tour on Monday evening, January 17, at eight o'clock in Palmer Auditorium, Connecticut College. They will present their latest lecture and all-color motion picture titled "Into the North Woods." The Hadleys' Screen Tour programs are distinguished by their use of their own tape recordings of bird songs, calls of wild animals, and



other sounds of the out-of-doors, as a background accompaniment to the color film and lecture presentation.

The Hadleys are a nature team. They have given to Detroit and to Michigan the inspiration that results when people are made aware of the out-of-doors. When President of the Detroit Audubon Society, Tom Hadley and his many loyal assistants made Detroit so conscious of the beauties of nature that Audubon Screen Tours in Detroit were presented to as many as 2000 in an evening with another thousand turned away for lack of seats. In one year the Detroit Audubon Society mushroomed in membership from 250 to 1500. Nature courses were started; people went on bird walks; to nature camp-outs; and many Detroiters learned for the first time that there really was an out-of-doors.

See "Screen Tour"—Page 4

Our Connecticut Sportsmen

Many of us interested in conservation tend to blame the sportsmen for the ill plight of our natural resources, particularly wildlife. Many of these accusations are unjust and made without forethought. We cannot forget that in many states, and particularly in our own, that virtually all conservation endeavors are initiated by, financed by, and executed by the sportsmen. However, the purpose of this article is not to criticize nor defend our Connecticut sportsmen. Rather it is to present to you a bit of their own philosophy so that you may be the judge.

There are many sportsmen's clubs throughout the state. These clubs belong to, and send representatives to, a state organization known as the Connecticut State League of Sportsmen's Clubs. This organization recently wrote to Governor Ribicoff setting forth their aims and objectives. These aims and objectives are repeated here, without comment, so that you may better understand their programs and policies.

1. In 1952, at the request of the State League, the Governor in office appointed a non-partisan Study Committee to examine the operations, policy, and programs of the State Board of Fisheries and Game. This committee did an outstanding job, and its findings and recommendations formed the basis for much legislation passed by the 1953 General Assembly, resulting in a newly reorganized Fish and Game Department. This Department, under new leadership, has created a long-range program of conservation needed in this State and laid the groundwork and plan for carrying it to completion. We are in support of this program and of the necessary actions to carry it to successful completion, including Department Budget requests.

Progressive Wildlife Management the country over, shows the most efficient method is by delegation of legislative authority to the appropriate State Agency to regulate the harvesting of wildlife crops. The 1953 General Assembly delegated considerable regulatory authority to the Fish and Game Department. We favor the further extension of this authority to all wildlife species.

2. Unpolluted streams having a continuous flow of water are a valuable natural resource; important not only to recreation but to the social and economic progress of our State. We have a long-standing history of favoring active measures in abating and preventing pollution. We have long advocated legislation designed to stabilize the flow of streams.

3. Residential and industrial development has created the need for water supplies. This has resulted in large areas being used for this purpose and thereby closed to recreational pursuits.

Urban life also created the need for outdoor recreations. We favor the creation of a formula which will permit the use of Reservoirs and Watersheds for recreation under adequate health safeguards.

4. These same development factors indicate the likelihood that available lands for hunting and fishing in the future will be restricted to State owned lands. We, therefore, support the Department program request for an appropriation for Land Acquisition.

5. Since the matter of conservation entails and integrates the services and functions of other Departments in addition to Fish and Game, our organization will also support the Budget requests and objectives of such Departments as Parks and Forests, Water Commission, Soil Conservation and any others who contribute to the overall picture.

6. Recognizing the seriousness of Beach Erosion Control we are committed to the support of movements designed to correct and prevent this invasion of another natural resource.

Sanctuary Needs

From time to time we list in this bulletin items that are needed for more efficient operation of the Sanctuary. Our budget has not permitted the purchase of all these items and we are most grateful to our members for their numerous contributions. Some of our current needs include:

A chain saw—This is an urgently needed item for two important reasons. First, it would permit the comparatively rapid clearing of the hurricane damage. Secondly, and perhaps more important, it would help tremendously in the clearing of areas that are now reverting to woodland but should be kept open and replanted from the wildlife management viewpoint.

A power mower—Our present mower needs replacing. Since we have all types of mowing to be done, from smooth lawns to rugged trail areas, we can find work for most any type of mower.

Typewriter—The Sanctuary has existed for nine years without a typewriter of its own. Need we say more?

A typewriter stand—Of course we will need a stand to put our typewriter on.

An old pick-up truck—An old pick-up truck (in running condition) would be a big asset to the Sanctuary. It is needed to haul logs, sand, gravel, rocks, tools, etc., about the Sanctuary property. Such items are needed to repair trails, ponds, bridges, and similar constructions.

An Indian back pump—We need this primarily as a means of fire prevention and protection. It can also be used for spraying purposes.

Sanctuary Receives

SCS Report

For the past couple of years the Sanctuary has been listed as a cooperator with the New London County Soil Conservation District. As our property was not primarily a farming area, and because we had no immediate problem of land wastage, other properties took precedent over ours in the testing of soils and the development of a land capability map. However, this map was turned over to us on January 3 by Mr. Sherman Chase, head of the New London County Soil Conservation District.

This map shows that our soil is of three types—Sudbury, Leicester, and Shapleigh. The Sudbury is a fine sandy loam and found only in the two fields adjoining the road. These fields are kept in good condition by permitting them to be farmed by a local farmer. This keeps them from reverting to woodland and secures the cooperation of the farmer in the planting of food patches and similar projects.

The Leicester soil is more of a rocky loam that is poorly drained. It is level and we have no erosion. It consists mainly of the meadow area that is quite swampy most of the year. If we were endeavoring to use all areas for some farming purpose, this could be drained and maintained as pasture. However, from the wildlife point of view, it is more productive to us to have it remain pretty much in its present condition. A few wildlife plantings could be added.

The greatest amount of our 125 acres is of the Shapleigh rocky loam variety. It consists of gentle to steep slopes with no erosion but is subject to periodic droughts. Mainly, this represents the areas covered by our second-growth hardwood forests. From the farm standpoint some of this area might have a maximum use as pasture land. However, under our plan it is better to manage this type of terrain for the benefit of wildlife and the growth of hardwood timber.

This map can serve as the basis for the development of a management plan for the entire Sanctuary.

How Does Conn. Fare?

The 1954-55 year book of the American Association for Conservation Information indicates that:

A good state conservation information program is made up of the following essential elements: (1) Public relations or adult education; (2) Departmental magazine; (3) Conservation education in schools; (4) Departmental publications; (5) Photography, both movies and stills; (6) Radio and television; and (7) Exhibits.

Christmas Census, 1954

(Editor's Note: The following census was made by the individuals listed as a last minute effort to represent coverage for the National Audubon Society in this area. For many years the Christmas census in this area has been headed by Mr. Robert Logan who has recently moved to Boston. Another year we will plan the census in advance and ask the cooperation of more observers.)

Reports from the Mystic area were for 12/26; those from Groton west to the Connecticut River (with the exception of the last three species on the list) were for 12/27. Weather, fair with moderate westerly breezes; temperature, about 32-45° F. Miles driven 60; miles walked 3. Observers: Paul Waldron, Lorraine Waldron, Josephine Merrill, Richard H. Goodwin, Jr., Belton A. Copp, Harriet Miller, Thomas P. McElroy, William A. Niering, Marcella Putnam, Joseph Porter, Maynard Peterson, Mrs. Frank Eastman, Adele Erisman. Richard H. Goodwin, reporter.

Loon, Common	5
Grebe, Horned	60
Grebe, Pied-billed	3
Cormorant, European	5
Cormorant, Double-crested	1
Heron, Great Blue	6
Swan, Mute	21
Goose, Canada	167
Brant	4
Duck, Mallard	103
Duck, Black	531
Duck, Baldpate	13
Duck, Green Winged Teal	6
Duck, Red Headed	2
Duck, Canvasback	2
Duck, Greater Scaup	306
Duck, Lesser Scaup	813
Duck, American Golden Eye	192
Duck, Bufflehead	107
Duck, Old Squaw	1
Duck, White-winged Scoter	2
Duck, American Scoter	15
Merganser, Hooded	11
Merganser, American	49
Merganser, Redbreasted	488
Coot, American	8
Killdeer	6
Hawk, Sparrow	2
Bob White	24
Gull, Great Black-backed	24
Gull, Herring	337
Gull, Ring Billed	35
Gull, Laughing	1
Dove, Rock	1
Dove, Mourning	2
Kingfisher	8
Flicker	3
Woodpecker, Hairy	2
Woodpecker, Downy	7
Blue Jay	21
Crow	25
Fish Crow	4
Chickadee	41
Nuthatch, White-breasted	11
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	2
Creepers	1

Wren, Carolina	5
Robin	5
Bluebird	8
Starling	975
Warbler, Myrtle	16
Sparrow, English	80
Meadowlark	5
Grackle, Purple	2
Finch, Purple	1
Goldfinch	4
Junco	46
Sparrow, Tree	25
Sparrow, Song	5
Sparrow, White-throated	42
Sparrow, White-crowned	1
Seen on 12/26/54 west of Thames River	
Owl, Snowy	1
Hawk, Red-shouldered	1
Shrike, Northern	1
Total Species	64
Total Individuals	4,703

Bird Notes

Early reports seem to indicate that there is a good flight of **evening grosbeaks** this winter. First reports came from Mrs. Frank Eastman in Ledyard and from Wolcott Palmer in Stonington. They also appeared at the Sanctuary in mid December on two occasions but stayed only long enough to fill up on sunflower seeds. Robert Burnett of Mystic reports a **red-breasted nuthatch** as a constant visitor to their window feeder and Mrs. Lester Dunklee, also of Mystic, has an albino **junco** as a frequent visitor.

A **dickcissel** spent the first week in December at the Sanctuary and then disappeared. The first snowfall also brought a number of feeding **mourning doves**.

Adele Erisman of North Stonington has an **American bittern** wintering about the small stream that feeds the pond just below her house. The other day she watched it catch and devour a mouse—a winter substitute for frogs and fish.

New Program Committee

The Sanctuary has long needed an active program planning group that would help plan and execute the year's activities. Now, for the first time, we have an active Program Committee planning a schedule of Sanctuary activities for the coming year. The efforts of this committee will surely produce a varied and interesting agenda that will greatly enhance the Sanctuary's appeal to all members. Sanctuary members serving on this committee are Mr. Kenneth Bates, Mr. Robert E. Burnett, Mr. Coert duBois, Mrs. Mary L. Duryea, Mr. Frank Eastman, Mrs. R. O. Erisman, Mr. Williams Haynes, Mr. Carl H. Holdridge, Mr. Maynard Peterson, and Mrs. Edgar J. Schoonmaker.

The Morning After

(Some thoughts following the Natural Resources Council meeting in Hartford on December 3.)

Conservation is being taught successfully as part of the regular school curriculum rather than as a separate subject. It gives particular impetus to English courses when used as a subject for compositions, demanding, as it does, original research and pungent clear expression. It stimulates better reading and speaking habits when used as a subject for student-written and acted radio programs, plays, etc. It appeals to slow pupils who possibly find in it the reality they miss in other school work. It offers a creative challenge to the brightest pupils too by giving them a vital and important subject worthy of their powers.

We need more teacher training courses in conservation, probably through more and better workshops. Already some workshop-trained teachers and other youth leaders are taking small groups on regular planned field trips with excellent results. One such teacher follows these trips with oral and written summaries in class the next day.

Some laymen (like the woman who runs her own nature museum and six-day-a-week summer program in Canton, Conn.) are devoting their time and money to conservation work with children—their only reward the personal satisfaction they get from doing a good job.

Three basic conservation problems concern the economic well-being of all citizens, country and city dwellers alike. These problems must be solved on a regional basis as they have been in the Brandywine Valley of Pennsylvania and in several other such areas. The problems are (1) sewage disposal, (2) erosion on farms, (3) pollution by industrial wastes.

We need a re-definition of the word "conservation" to be sure we are all talking about the same thing. The man who thinks conservation means bringing every possible acre into intensive cultivation to the extent of draining any swamp where crops might grow and planting all "idle acres" with conifers, is far more usual than the biologically-informed person who sees the grave danger in widespread destruction of native plants and animals, often the result of over-cultivation, deforestation, indiscriminate use of chemical sprays and poisons. The importance of native vegetation is not fully understood by many conservationists and therefore is not being adequately stressed in their programs.

We need more free discussion at meetings where the audience may very often have as much to contribute as the speakers themselves. This would break the monotony too.

Adele Erisman

Our Children Speak

Editorial in **Green Hornet's Buzz** for October 29:

Unfortunate indeed it is that Webster defines conservation as "conserving, preserving, guarding, and protecting" our natural resources from destruction. Webster further defines the word as a "keeping in a safe or entire state." This definition implies that the natural resources of our land should be put away and preserved for some unknown use.

We, the eighth grade, believe that conservation means "using wisely our natural resources," planting trees where mature trees have been removed, finding the proper grasses to be grown in different kinds of soils, saving our wild life, and wild flowers, and taking proper care of the soil.

We feel that if our definition of conservation were practiced by every citizen, our natural resources would be used for the greater benefit of all.

The **Buzz**, issued six times per year, is prepared by the eighth grade of Corvallis Junior High School, Corvallis, Montana. The paper is dedicated to conservation. Sponsor is Russell Bay. It's a fine project.

High School Club:

Aliquippa High School, in Pennsylvania, has a conservation, fishing and hunting club. The club has its own membership cards and stationery. What's more important, it has a very active conservation program. Sponsored by Larry Blaney, the group has a current membership of 244 (166 girls and 58 boys).

Red-Tailed Hawk Is Pet

"Rusty" a mature male red-tailed hawk has become the personal pet of our curator. "Rusty" was given to Mr. McElroy a couple of months ago. During this time Mr. McElroy has trained him to return to the gloved hand for food after flying around freely.

"Rusty" usually has his daily flight and meal about three o'clock each afternoon somewhere in the vicinity of the Sanctuary parking lot. When he is released he usually flies to the top of a nearby tree and will remain perched there until called down by Mr. McElroy. On windy days he loves to circle and soar in the air currents. It is exciting to watch and visitors are always welcome to watch the performance.

Mr. McElroy uses "Rusty" to illustrate lectures to visiting groups. He states that, "It provides an excellent opportunity to point out the real values and beauty of our hawks." Each lecture period is concluded by having "Rusty" put on a demonstration flight.

Conservation Guide For Teachers

The second edition of the popular **Bibliography of Free and Inexpensive Materials for Teaching Conservation and Resource-use** by Muriel Beuschlein has been published by the Conservation Project of the National Association of Biology Teachers. Copies are available at 10 cents with a 20 per cent discount on orders of 100 or more from project leader, Dr. Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 2073, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Wildlife Management Institute reports.

This revised bibliography is a chapter in the new **Handbook on Teaching Conservation and Resource-use** which has been prepared by the conservation project committee for release early in 1955. This handbook contains descriptions of more than 100 school projects and programs in conservation and resource use in 30 States. Its purpose is to assist teachers in planning conservation activities for children in elementary and secondary grades.

Advance orders for the handbook may be placed with Dr. Weaver. The publication is priced at \$4.00 per copy with a 20 per cent discount for teachers and schools. Proceeds from its sale will be used to locate additional descriptions for use in later editions of the handbook.

Trustees to Meet

The Sanctuary Board of Trustees
will meet

Friday

January 21 at 4:30 p.m.

at the home of

Mrs. David Kellems
Mason's Island, Mystic

More Books Received

The Sanctuary library has received some additional books as the gift of Mrs. Thomas Enders. Included in the group was a complete set of the **Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture** by L. H. Bailey. There were other books on botany, insects, and birds.

May we take this opportunity to remind our members that we are always happy to receive such donations for our library. We are particularly interested in good reference books and the more recent publications in the field of natural history.

Screen Tour

(Continued from Page One)

Previously Mr. Hadley was a General Motors executive, head of the Architectural Section of the Fisher Body Works Engineering Department. By avocation, and now by vocation as well, he is a naturalist, wildlife photographer and philosopher.

Mrs. Hadley has been active in conservation and Audubon activities. She assists in the photography and serves as projector operator.

"Into the North Woods" is a trek into one of the great wilderness areas of the United States—rugged and truly wild, yet accessible to those who care to leave for a while the entanglements of civilization.

Climax of the story comes in an awesome spectacle of nature in some of its most violent and catastrophic moods: forest fire and tornado. Twenty-six hundred acres of proud forest burned in a single day, driving before it man, beast and bird, destroying and charring as it rushed on its relentless way. Death and desolation. Bleak emptiness.

Then the comeback gives substance to the story. Nature abhors a vacuum. Blackened trees let in open sunlight. Pine borers, wildflowers, grass roots and jack-pine seedlings creep in. Deer, 'possum and beaver slowly come back. The owls, nighthawks and warblers return—including one of the rarest warblers in North America, the Kirtland's warbler, which happens to thrive in burned-over jack-pine woodland.

The will to live wins out over tragedy. Gradually the scar is healed on the face of the earth as successions of plant, animal and bird life complete the slow process of growth. All of them presented in action, in color and with much appreciation for their beauty and their place in the scheme of things.

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A Statement of Purpose: We want this publication to be of the utmost service to you—to keep you informed concerning activities at the Sanctuary and in your community; to invite your participation in these activities; and to provide you with general articles of education and inspiration regarding conservation subjects. Won't you drop us a line and tell us what you would like to see published? We would appreciate it.